



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,502	03/10/2004	David Kirchhoff	03968-P0001F	3976
24126 7590 12/17/2007 ST. ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS, LLC 986 BEDFORD STREET STAMFORD, CT 06905-5619			EXAMINER RIVIERE, HEIDI M	
			ART UNIT 3629	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/797,502

Applicant(s)

KIRCHHOFF ET AL.

Examiner

Heidi Riviere

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20 August 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on **20 August 2004** has been considered. An initialed copy of the Form 1449 is enclosed herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17, 18, 20-30, 33-36, 38-41 and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Mault et al. (US 2002/0133378 A1)** (hereinafter "**Mault**").

4. **With respect to claims 1 and 17:** Mault teaches:

- a user computer; (paragraphs 41, 42 and 56 – preferred embodiment is a computing device)
- a weight control program computer in communication with the user computer over a network; (paragraphs 41, 42 and 56 – preferred embodiment is a computing device)

- a foods database accessible by the weight control program computer; (Figs 5A and 5B; paragraph 51 – food entry options in database is accessible via computing device)
- the foods database having stored thereon data relating to a plurality of foods; (Figs 5A and 5B; paragraph 51 – food entry options in database is accessible via computing device)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to generate a meal plan comprised of foods stored on the foods database, to transmit the meal plan to the user computer and to allow the person to alter the meal plan based upon food selections received from the user computer; (paragraph 43 – calorie management program used)
- and software executing on the weight control program computer operable to receive data relating to foods from the person via the user computer and to alter the foods database based upon the received data. (Figs 5A and 5B; paragraph 51 – food entry options in database is accessible via computing device)

5. **With respect to claims 2 and 39:** Mault discloses software executing on the weight control program computer operable to search the foods database to locate and transmit to the user computer data relating to foods stored on the foods database which match criteria received from the user computer. (Figs 5A and 5B; paragraph 51 – food entry options in database is accessible via computing device)

6. **With respect to claims 3, 18 and 40:** Mault discloses the food selections received from the user computer are based upon the data relating to foods transmitted

by the software. (Figs 5A and 5B; paragraph 51 – food entry options in database is accessible via computing device)

7. **With respect to claims 4 and 41:** Mault teaches at least some of the data stored on the foods database relates to branded foods. (Fig. 20B, item 266 – notes the Hormell Sausage can be used in recipe)

8. **With respect to claims 6, 30 and 34:** Mault teaches the meal plan is based at least in part on a target food consumption value maintained by software executing on the weight control program computer. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

9. **With respect to claims 7 and 22:** Mault teaches software executing on the weight control program computer operable to alter the target food consumption value based upon activity selections received from the user computer. (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)

10. **With respect to claims 8 and 23:** Mault teaches:

- an activities database accessible by the weight control program computer, the activities database having stored thereon data relating to a plurality of activities; (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to search the activities database to locate and transmit to the user computer data, relating to activities stored on the activities database which match criteria received from

the user computer; (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities) and

- wherein the activity selections received from the user computer are based upon the data relating to activities transmitted by the software. (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)

11. **With respect to claims 9, 24, 33 and 38:** Mault teaches software executing on the weight control program computer operable to receive data relating to activities from the person via the user computer and to alter the activities database based upon the received data. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – weight of individual calculated; target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

12. **With respect to claims 10 and 25:** Mault teaches the target food consumption value is generated automatically by software executing on the weight control program computer. (Figs. 2B; 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 45, 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

13. **With respect to claims 11, 26 and 35:** Mault teaches the target food consumption value is based at least in part on an initial weight of the person. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 45, 52-54 – weight of individual calculated; target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

14. **With respect to claims 12, 27 and 36:** Mault teaches the target food consumption value is based at least in part on a current weight of the person. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A and 7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 45, 52-54 – weight of individual calculated; target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

15. **With respect to claim 13, 28 and 43:** Mault teaches a favorites database accessible by the weight control program computer, the favorites database having stored thereon data relating to foods which are favorites of the person. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

16. **With respect to claim 14 and 29:** Mault teaches the foods which are favorites of the person are specified by the person. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

17. **With respect to claim 15 and 21:** Mault teaches the foods which are favorites of the person are determined automatically by software executing on the weight control program computer. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

18. **With respect to claim 20:** Mault discloses software executing on the weight control program computer operable to receive data relating to foods from the person via the user computer and to alter the foods database based upon the received data. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – weight of individual

calculated; target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20. **Claims 5, 16, 19, 31-32, 37, 42, 45-47, 49-53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mault** as applied to **claims 1-4, 17, 18, 39-41** above, and further in view of **Grana (US 2006/0053184 A1)**.

21. **With respect to claims 5, 19 and 42:** Mault discloses the limitations in the rejections cited above. Mault does not disclose at least some of the data stored on the foods database relates to foods prepared by consumer restaurants. However, Grana teaches at least some of the data stored on the foods database relates to foods prepared by consumer restaurants. (paragraph 41 – “restaurants field permits a user to be presented with a list of meals available at various restaurants”; replacements or alternatives suggested)

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include food prepared in restaurants to the foods database because this enables user “to maintain their planned diets in every venue.” (Grana paragraph 41)

22. **With respect to claims 16, 31, 46 and 53:** Mault discloses the limitations in the rejections cited above. Mault does not disclose wherein the network comprises the Internet. However, Grana teaches wherein the network comprises the Internet. (paragraph 23 – server is world wide web server connected to Internet)

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have in Internet as part of the network because this would enable the user to have access to the system at home and at work.

23. **With respect to claim 32:** Mault discloses

- a user computer; (paragraphs 41, 42 and 56 – preferred embodiment is a computing device)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to maintain a target food consumption value; (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A - 7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated)
- an activities database accessible by the weight control program computer, the activities database having stored thereon data relating to a plurality of activities; (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to search the activities database to locate and transmit to the user computer data relating to activities stored on the activities database which match criteria received from the user computer; (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities) and

- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to alter the target food consumption value based upon activity selections received from the user computer, which activity Selections received from the user computer are based upon the data relating to activities transmitted by the software. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

Mault does not disclose, however Grana teaches:

- a weight control program computer in communication with the user computer over a network; (paragraphs 23 – server is a computer connected to Internet “user uses a client machine”)

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have in Internet as part of the network because this would enable the user to have access to the system at home and at work.

24. **With respect to claim 37:** Mault discloses the limitations in the rejections cited above. Mault does not disclose, however Grana teaches:

- a foods database accessible by the weight control program computer, the foods database having stored thereon data relating to a plurality of foods; (paragraphs 30, 31 and 34 – information in database based on food inquiries and stored on system)and
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to generate a meal plan comprised of foods stored on the foods database, to

transmit the meal plan to the user computer and to allow the person to alter the meal plan based upon food selections received from the user computer, the meal plan being based at least in part on the target food consumption value. (paragraphs 27 and 35 – use of software; weekly list of meals provided)

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow user to alter the meal plan so that the user can have different meal options on different days.

25. **With respect to claim 45:** Mault discloses the activities which are favorites of the person are determined automatically by software executing on the weight control program computer. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

26. **With respect to claim 47:** Mault teaches:

- a user computer; (paragraphs 41, 42 and 56 – preferred embodiment is a computing device)
- an activities database accessible by the weight control program computer, the activities database having stored thereon data relating to a plurality of activities; (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to maintain a target food consumption value and to allow the person to alter

the target food consumption value based upon activity selections received from the person; (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

- a foods database accessible by the weight control program computer, the foods database having stored thereon data concerning a plurality of foods; (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)
- a favorites database accessible by the weight control program computer, the favorites database having stored thereon data relating to foods and activities which are favorites of the person. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

Mault does not teach, however Grana discloses:

- a weight control program computer in communication with the user computer over a network; (paragraphs 23 – server is a computer connected to Internet “user uses a client machine”)
- software executing on the weight control program computer operable to generate a meal plan comprised of foods stored on the foods database based at least in part on the target food consumption value, to transmit the meal plan to the user computer and to allow the person to alter the meal plan based upon food selections received from the user computer;

(paragraphs 27 and 35 – use of software; weekly list of meals provided)

and

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow user to alter the meal plan so that the user can have different meal options on different days.

27. **With respect to claim 49:** Mault teaches the foods and activities which are favorites of the person are determined automatically by software executing on the weight control program computer. (Figs. 3H-3L, 6A and 6B, 7A -7B and 8A-8D; paragraphs 52-54 – target food consumption calculated; activity selections automatically calculated into balance reports)

28. **With respect to claim 50:** Mault teaches software executing on the weight control program computer operable to search the favorites database to locate and transmit to the user computer data relating to foods and activities stored on the favorites database which match criteria received from the user computer. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

29. **With respect to claim 51:** Mault teaches software executing on the weight control program computer operable to alter the target food consumption value based upon activity selections received from the user computer, which activity selections received from the user computer are based upon the data relating to activities stored on the favorites database transmitted by the software. (Fig. 6A and 6B; paragraph 52 – exercise database lists types of activities)

30. **With respect to claim 52:** Mault teaches software executing on the weight control program computer operable to alter the meal plan based upon food selections received from the user computer, which food selections received from the user computer are based upon the data relating to foods stored on the favorites database transmitted by the software. (Fig. 20C, item 278; paragraph 87 – in foods database favorite foods are indicated by selecting favorite food icon)

31. **Claims 44 and 48** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mault** in view of **Grana** and further in view of Nanci Hellmich, "Thinning Out The Diet Myths" USA Today, Jan. 3, 2001 (hereinafter "Hellmich").

32. **With respect to claim 44:** Mault/ Grana disclose the limitations in the rejections cited above. Mault/Grana do not disclose, however Hellmich teaches the activities which are favorites of the person are specified by the person. (page 3, 6th full paragraph – overweight children are encouraged to choose a favorite activity)

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the user specify activities which are their favorites because of the motivation to encourage the user to want to work out.

33. **With respect to claim 48:** The system according to claim 47, wherein the foods and activities which are favorites of the person are specified by the person (page 3, 6th, 13th and 14th full paragraphs – overweight children are encouraged to choose a favorite activity; dieters are encouraged to eat favorite foods while on diet).

Therefore, it would have be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the user specify the food and activities which are their favorites because of the motivation to encourage the user to want to work out and not binge on the foods if they are forbidden. (Hellmich: page 3, 14th full paragraph)

CONCLUSION

34. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heidi Riviere whose telephone number is 571-270-1831. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:00pm EST.;
Alternative Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Name: Heidi Riviere

Signature: 

Title: Examiner

Date: 12/12/07


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600